

RA-539

BELLA VISTA (SITE) - 1895 - East side of Harford Road, 0.5 mile south of Mt. Vista Road. After finding the former Homestead of the Gittings family unsuitable as a country home, Charles J. Bonaparte, then a Baltimore attorney and political reformer, built a very large stick and shingle or Queen Anne style, gable-roofed house on a hilltop to the east. The contractor was John Cowen. During his residence there, he served as Secretary of the Navy and Attorney General in the Theodore Roosevelt cabinet. He died in 1921. During the ownership of the Obrecht family, the house burned on January 20, 1933. Bella Vista was replaced by a contemporary house in poured concrete which still stands.

RA-539A

BELLA VISTA BARN - 1895 - Barn built in brick with gambrel roof to a design by Charles J. Bonaparte. Contractor was John Cowen. Elaborately timbered roof support system (wood truss). Down the slope from former Obrecht house.